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Washington Merry-Go-Round

by JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — Ever since we reported on the drunken antics of an AID official during Vice President Agnew's recent visit to Kenya, AID has been tightening the lid on classified messages.

FBI agents are grilling officials and giving lie detector tests to find out who leaked the secret report. Copy machines have been moved to secured areas where they are constantly monitored.

All these precautions have been taken in the name of national security. Yet our story, which precipitated the manhunt, had nothing to do with security.

We quoted from a message that Robinson McIlvane, the American Ambassador in Kenya, sent to Dr. John Hannah, the AID administrator. The message was so sensitive that it was hand-delivered to Hannah under seal. He was upset, therefore, when we printed it for 45 million Americans to read.

But the subject of the message was the hijinks of Bert Tollefson, who is in charge of the AID program in Kenya. Alleged the hush-hush message:

"The problem started with Bert's well-known pushiness and general lack of sensitivity and culminated with his getting sloshed at Treetops (a nightculb), making passes at the Vice President's secretary and trying to drag her down the steps to meet an elephant at ground level."

Tollefson assured us by telephone from Nairobi that it was all a misunderstanding and blamed the whole episode on unnamed Democratic holdovers.

But Hannah took urgent steps to make sure we don't get any more of his secret messages. He issued terse instructions, intended for the eyes only of those who handle sensitive documents.

As evidence that Hannah hasn't yet plugged the leak, here are his new instructions:

"The reproduction of the State's NODIS, EXDIS, and TOP SECRET and the aid'S EYES ONLY and TOP SECRET messages requires the approval of the AID Executive secretary, and such reproduction *can be accomplished only by the EXSEC Staff*. . . .

"All reproduction and copy machines are being located in secured areas, which will be monitored . . . . During non-working hours, all copy machines will be secured in such a way that they are inoperable."

SLOW ECONOMIC RISE —